



President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

As part of the American Radio Relay League's [Year of the Volunteer](#), the ARRL CEO has asked each of us to consider reaching up one rung higher. What this means for each of us can differ from person to person. But the common theme for all is a couple of directions, forward and upward.

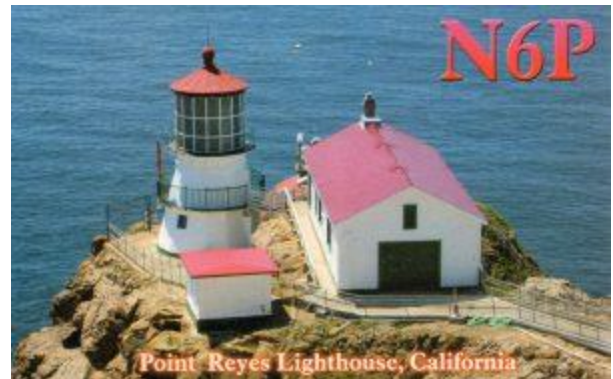
This is not really anything new. The basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service as described in the Part 97 rules has long called on all of us to make an effort to contribute to the advancement of radio art and improve our skills as radio operators.

Found a new antenna intriguing? Build it! Heard about a new mode? Try it! Want VOMARC to be a more engaging and active club? Help out!

I want to thank everyone who stepped up to help the club put on what appears to have been a successful [Sonoma Hamfest](#) in April. This event is the most important fundraiser for the club and it's only through the efforts of club members who helped organize it that make it possible. You can get all of the details in Darrel's writeup in this edition of the newsletter.

The club has often set up a station near the Point Reyes Lighthouse in past years during the

month of August. The [Point Reyes National Seashore](#) has reached out to see whether we're going to set up operations once again this year. Does this interest you and do you want to help ensure this occurs? Please offer to lead this effort. Just let us know and we'll help get the ball rolling.



The weekly VOMARC net is also looking for net control stations for the months of September and October. It's a quick and easy task. Just follow our [net control script](#) and acknowledge people who check in. Easy. But it's also great way to get to know members' names and callsigns as well as getting more proficient in using your radio. Offer to try out being net control for a week and see how it goes.

If you want to move your station up a rung in terms of receive performance, this month's meeting topic will be of particular interest to you. Gary Johnson (NA6O) will be presenting on how to find and eliminate receive noise. You

can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em and some of these tips may help.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, May 17, 2023, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Finding and Eliminating Receive Noise**

Presenter: **Gary Johnson (NA6O)**

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

We held a testing session during our HAMFest on April 22.

There were 7 candidates, either testing for an upgrade or for a Technician License. It was nice to see some teenagers interested in the hobby.

Welcome new members below, when you hear them on our weekly netsor at our next ZOOM meetings.

- Henri
- Frigyes- KB4RKS
- Sandy- KN6GST
- Kiwi

Our next test session will be on Saturday, July 29

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

Time: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM (if there is enough demand)

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC Time: 10:00 AM. Reservations required.

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY) Email: n6ly.emm (at) [gmail.com](mailto:n6ly.emm@gmail.com)

Location: First Congregational Church of Sonoma, Spain Street, Sonoma

Please reserve in advance if you want to join the hobby or move on to the next level.

We will still be requiring masks and will seat candidates appropriately spaced.

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a \$35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below, once you pass the test to receive your license and call sign.

This does not apply to upgrades.

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID
- FCC Registration Number
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is \$15.00, Under 18 is \$5.00 COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply.

There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

- All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above.
- Sessions limited to ten applicants at a time.
- All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).
- Please bring your own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year's worth of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of

some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

Additional Sessions for 2023

- Saturday, July 29
- Saturday, October 28

Thank you.



Dear NCDXF Contributor,

The Spring 2023 NCDXF Newsletter is now available. Please use this link to access all NCDXF Newsletters, including this new issue:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/newsletter.html>

Look on the page for **2023** and click on the box for **Spring**.

Or download it using this direct link:

<https://ncdxf.org/newsletters/2023-SPRING.pdf>

This Special Edition features:

3Y0J: The 2023 DXpedition to Bouvetøya

A Voyage to the world's most remote island

by Cesar Trifu, VE3LYC and Kenneth Opskar, LA7GIA

From the President's desk by Kevin Rowett, K6TD

NCDXF Contribution & Order Form

Your contributions enable NCDXF to support its mission and this newsletter. The last page of the Newsletter has a form you can use when making contributions or ordering supplies. It can be printed and mailed, or you can use the following link to contribute on-line:

<http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/contribute.html>

THANK YOU for your support and enjoy the Newsletter!

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VOMARC Hamfest Report

Well, we put another VOMARC Hamfest away. Everyone put in a lot of work, smiling all the while, and everyone had a good time.

I especially want to thank Ed, W1EJ, for putting the breakfast together, and thanks to all the kitchen crew who came down to Burlingame Hall to serve up another delicious breakfast of eggs, Ed's special blueberry pancakes, sausage and OJ and coffee. If Ed ever retires, we'll just have to close the doors and call it a good run.



Ed serving up his famous blueberry pancakes. -- Photo by Kathy (KM6URP)

It was nice to see Scott, AE6SW (previously KJ6QIQ), from over the mountain, serving eggs, sausage and pancakes with a big smile. Sabine, KM6FPZ, was right in the middle, although I hesitated to tell her that Stan was last seen carrying big things from the swap meet to their car. Joe, N7TSQ, brought his professional chef skills to the frying pan and turned out a continuous stream of delicious scrambled eggs. I kept asking "who is that masked superhero?", only to realize it was Kathy, KM6URP putting in a long shift in the kitchen.

Our Jacks of All Trades, Dave, KD6FIL, and Jim, KM6SJK, were everywhere doing everything, including time in the kitchen. They, with Dean, KI6FFM, and the rest of the crew, all made short work of picking things up and putting them away. Tables and chairs came out in the morning and quickly found their way back to their place at the end of the event.

Dan, WA6CRB, and John, W8EWL, did an outstanding job at the registration desk, selling breakfast tickets, handing out door prize tickets and prizes, and monitoring the repeater for talk-in. They were our dynamic duo greeting our guests like Superham and Bat-ham.

Phil, KN6MJY, arrived just in time to take over the swap meet registration duties after I had let the situation get entirely out of hand. A quick briefing, a clipboard and envelope with change, and he was on his way. He found time to take some photos for us to use for our press release next year.

Mike, WB6TMH, and Carl, N6TTV, covered the club swap table again, selling gear for the club as well as for club members. I had to lock my wallet in my van to keep from taking more stuff home. We had equipment we were selling for long-time VOMARC member Sam, W5LTP, including his father's complete Collins S-Line station, including amplifier and accessories. Of course, at a hamfest you need to find the right person who appreciates the value of the station. On eBay, it would sell in the neighborhood of \$3,000, but the only offer was by a hamfest attendee who was insulted because Mike didn't accept his \$600 offer for everything.



Sam's (W5LTP) S-Line station is still available. -- Photo by Dave (KD6FIL)

Mike also ran a Fox Hunt, with quite active participation by hamfest guests. Among them were Luis, KN6KAG, our 17-year-old Extra class member, who is also a student pilot working on his private pilot rating in Petaluma. Luis showed up early, pitched in to help, then went to the airport to help cook hamburgers for the Saturday barbecue out there. I think he will be one of our officers in the near future.

Liz, N6LY, headed up the VE session, with Kevin, K6YD, San, N7PIB, Barb, K6WHY and Gordon, W6DDU, coming over from Yountville to help out. I believe she said they tested six or seven, with most of them passing for their initial license or their upgrade.



Apparently, not all of the stuff on the free table/bench got unloaded. -- Photo by Dave (KD6FIL)

Finally, we had the local radio station, KSVY, there for a remote broadcast from the vent. They interviewed Dan, Mike, Phil and several other club members, letting Sonoma Valley know who we are and what we do in the hobby of amateur radio.

I want to thank the First Congregational Church for the use of their beautiful facility. This was a challenging year in that there were competing events, such as the Grand Fondo bike race, the Visalia DX convention, and conflicting personal commitments that kept some of our members otherwise occupied and away from the event.

We will need to have more members involved in the planning committee for future events, since the principals aren't getting any younger. It's encouraging to see the new, younger members entering the hobby, knowing that they will be able to carry VOMARC forward into the future and keep amateur radio alive and well.

Thanks for another great event! We cleared \$822 to go into the club treasury, but mainly, everyone had a good time.

—Submitted by Darrel WD6BOR

On The Air

We'll be posting club members' [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) numbers in the June edition of the newsletter. Send us your totals if you'd like to be included in the list.

Robert (KA5WSS) used the recent [New England QSO Party](#) and [7th Call Area QSO Party](#) to work the final three CW states needed to qualify for the [Worked All States Triple Play Award](#) (Phone, Data and CW).

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

- After years of frozen membership dues, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) needs to raise dues to cover its rising costs. They have [released a survey for members](#) to gauge what's most important to them and how much of an increase they are willing to bear.

- Dave (KD6FIL)** provided a link to the [spring 2023 newsletter of the Northern California DX Foundation](#). It includes an article on the recent and very eventful 3Y0J DXpedition to Bouvet Island.

- An article on the National World website claims [Morse Code is making something of a comeback](#).

- Love Baseball and radio DXing? The [Grand Slam DX Challenge](#) may be for you! Points are



earned by listening to live broadcasts of baseball games on Am and FM stations around the country.

- Scientists have [developed a technique that uses electricity to heal wounds up to three times faster](#).

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Ham Humor

After Sonoma HamFest:



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Parks on the Air Fun

Unfortunately, due to the wet winter and spring, I haven't activated any new, to me, parks, this year.

That doesn't mean, we haven't been out activating, we have just stayed fairly close to home.

I have made several DX contacts, from parks this year, including P2P contacts from the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Puerto Rico. During one of our outings, I made several contacts in Australia and New Zealand (it might have been a DX contest weekend} :) Another fun contact was to the Solomon Islands.

I have managed a second Kilo (over 2000 Contacts from the same park) from Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park and almost have my second Kilo from Sonoma Coast.

When activating, I normally try to start on 40M and work my way up the bands to 10M. Always look forward to making a contact with a club member.

Now that the weather seems to be getting better, or at least drier, we are planning on venturing to some new parks. This weekend, on May 12, we plan on activating a Park or two up Hwy 5, near Corona.

In June we will be driving to Colorado, and hope to activate at least one park from each state we drive through, as long as they aren't far off Hwy 80.

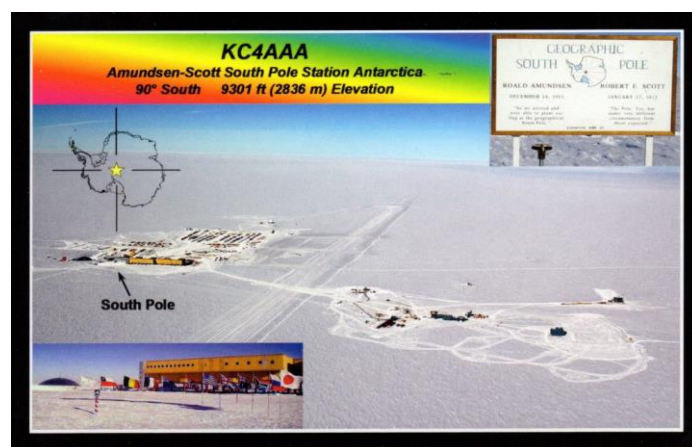
Here are some of my Parks on the Air Stats

- All contacts are on SSB varying Bands
- Unique Parks Activated- 105, 20 activations, with 10,417 QSOs
- Unique Parks Hunted-706,
- Park to Park Contacts-938

Thank you.

—Submitted by Elizabeth- N6LY

QSL Card Inbox



The callsign [KC4AAA](#) sounds rather humdrum. But rather than residing in the Southeastern US, this station is located as far south as you can go - the South Pole. This card confirms my 40M QSO on SSB and is my only Antarctic contact to date.

QSL Card Inbox (Continued)



I've only worked one station in Tajikistan, and [EY8MM](#) is that station. This card confirms an FT8 contact on 15M.



I had worked the Western Sahara before, but this card from [S01WS](#) confirmed new mode and band combinations. This card covered CW and SSB contacts on 20M, 17M and 10M.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 27 EDITION 5

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2023

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.